

Harris Wofford, 92, Ex-Senator Who Pushed Volunteerism, Is Dead

By Robert D. McFadden

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Harris Wofford, a former United States senator from Pennsylvania whose passion for getting people involved helped create John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps, Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps and other service organizations and made him America's volunteer in chief, died on Monday night in Washington. He was 92.

His son Daniel said his death, at George Washington University Hospital, was caused by complications of a fall at Mr. Wofford's Washington apartment several days earlier.

By the time he became a senator in May 1991, appointed after his predecessor was killed in an aircraft accident, Mr. Wofford was already 65. He had been a lawyer, an author, a professor, the president of two colleges, a special assistant to President John F. Kennedy, an adviser to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, the state's secretary of labor and industry, a champion of civil rights and a leading force in America's national and community service movement.

A month after Senator H. John Heinz III, a Republican, died, Gov. Robert P. Casey was still searching for a replacement, having been turned down by Lee Iacocca, the chairman of Chrysler, and others. Whoever accepted would have to run in a special election in November against the United States attorney general, Dick Thornburgh, a popular former two-term governor who had signaled his intention to seek the seat.

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